

PLUMRIDGE, ROBERT

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PLUMRIDGE, ROBERT, born in New Zealand, 1845; married Isabel Acedo (1865-1927), daughter of Demetrio and Bencelada Acedo, at Tucson, A.T., November 10, 1883; children, Robert Valentine, Annie, Isabel (Belle), Josephine (Mrs. Robert N. Mullin) and Evelyn (Mrs. Louis Crawley).

Enrolled, age 16, at Coloma, El Dorado County, September 20, and mustered in at Auburn, Placer County, California, October 26, 1861, to serve 3 years as Private, Captain Allen W. Cullum's Company F, 4th California Infantry; occupation when enlisted, Waiter; stationed at Camp Union, Sacramento, until June, 1862, when he went by sea with the Company to Camp Latham in Southern California; marched to Fort Yuma in April, 1863, and thence up the Colorado to Camp Lincoln (La Paz) where he was stationed from June, 1863 to September, 1864; honorably discharged at Drum Barracks, California, October 10, 1864.

Was living in Prescott in 1872 and at Tucson in 1874; Comrade, Negley Post No. 35, G.A.R., Tucson, 1884, occupation - Cook; the Phoenix Arizona Republican printed the following at the time of his death;

From thirty to forty years ago there was no sporting man in the country better known than was Bob Plumridge. He was quoted as an authority on all matters pertaining to races, card games, pugilistic matters, or, in fact, anything which came under the caption of sports. Bets made in New York City and in San Francisco were left to Bob Plumridge to decide. Once he had given his opinion the matter was settled. He had a reputation throughout the land for fairness and for knowledge in such matters.

It is said of him that at one time he made a tour of the country with a man willing to back him for any amount of money to play any game of cards for any stake. This story, however, Plumridge, although he would never deny it, said was overdrawn. He was not a man who courted notoriety, neither was he egotistical. He was a square man.

Born in New Zealand, he came to California with his parents when a very young man. Most of his early childhood he spent in San Francisco, and it was at the time when gold was the money of the commercial world and when it was easy to get. He was of a sporting nature, and loved all things in which there was a chance, being an

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expert with cards, though always reputed to be an honest man. When the state of California raised her companies for the defense of the Union, Plumridge, a boy not yet of age, joined the troops. It was as a member of the famous California Column that he first came into Arizona.

After leaving the volunteers he visited all parts of the Territory. He had lived in Tombstone, Globe, Bowie, Prescott, and this city. In Prescott he went into the restaurant business with Tom Whitehead, now a resident of Cochise County. He also became interested in a hotel at Prescott. His generosity made his business venture a failure, for those who applied, whether they had money or not, were welcome.

About twenty years ago he came from Tucson to Phoenix and has since made this city his home. Most of this time he had been employed at the Capitol Saloon although there were intervals when he made trips following the races as a bookmaker and poolseller.

Died at Phoenix, Maricopa County, A.T., June 17, 1906, aged 61; buried, Rosedale Cemetery, Phoenix, (War Department headstone).

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Orton, R.H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1890, p. 642.

The Adjutant General of the Army - Military service records.

U.S. Veterans Administration - Pension records, W.C. 615,303.

U.S. Census, Tucson, 1870, wife and her parents.

Barter, G.W. - Tucson City Directory, S.F., 1881, p. 101 (?).

Bensel Co. - Phoenix City Directory, 1892, p. 96.

The Arizona Miner, Prescott, September 21, 1872, p. 3, C. 1.

The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, November 28, 1874, p. 3, C. 3.

The Phoenix Evening Gazette, June 18, p. 4 (obituary) and June 19, 1905, p. 5, C. 3, (funeral).

The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, June 18, 1906, p. 8, C. 4-5 (obituary), and April 9, 1824.